



## Adapting to and coping with the threat and impacts of climate change

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### Abstract:

This article addresses the nature and challenge of adaptation in the context of global climate change. The complexity of "climate change" as threat, environmental stressor, risk domain, and impacting process with dramatic environmental and human consequences requires a synthesis of perspectives and models from diverse areas of psychology to adequately communicate and explain how a more psychological framing of the human dimensions of global environmental change can greatly inform and enhance effective and collaborative climate change adaptation and mitigation policies and research. An integrative framework is provided that identifies and considers important mediating and moderating parameters and processes relating to climate change adaptation, with particular emphasis given to environmental stress and stress and coping perspectives. This psychological perspective on climate change adaptation highlights crucial aspects of adaptation that have been neglected in the arena of climate change science. Of particular importance are intra-individual and social "psychological adaptation" processes that powerfully mediate public risk perceptions and understandings, effective coping responses and resilience, overt behavioral adjustment and change, and psychological and social impacts. This psychological window on climate change adaptation is arguably indispensable to genuinely multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary research and policy initiatives addressing the impacts of climate change.

**Source:** <http://dx.doi.org/10.1037/a0023412>

### Resource Description

#### Communication:

resource focus on research or methods on how to communicate or frame issues on climate change; surveys of attitudes, knowledge, beliefs about climate change

A focus of content

#### Communication Audience:

audience to whom the resource is directed

Public

**Other Communication Audience:** Media

#### Exposure :

weather or climate related pathway by which climate change affects health

# Climate Change and Human Health Literature Portal

Ecosystem Changes, Extreme Weather Event, Food/Water Quality, Sea Level Rise

**Extreme Weather Event:** Drought, Flooding, Hurricanes/Cyclones, Landslides, Wildfires

**Food/Water Quality:** Other Water Quality Issue

**Water Quality (other):** Salination

**Geographic Feature:** 

resource focuses on specific type of geography

General Geographical Feature

**Geographic Location:** 

resource focuses on specific location

Global or Unspecified

**Health Impact:** 

specification of health effect or disease related to climate change exposure

General Health Impact

**Mitigation/Adaptation:** 

mitigation or adaptation strategy is a focus of resource

Adaptation

**Resource Type:** 

format or standard characteristic of resource

Research Article, Review

**Resilience:** 

capacity of an individual, community, or institution to dynamically and effectively respond or adapt to shifting climate impact circumstances while continuing to function

A focus of content

**Timescale:** 

time period studied

Time Scale Unspecified